

Current vs. Mean Position of the Africa ITF Oct 2010 : Dekad 2

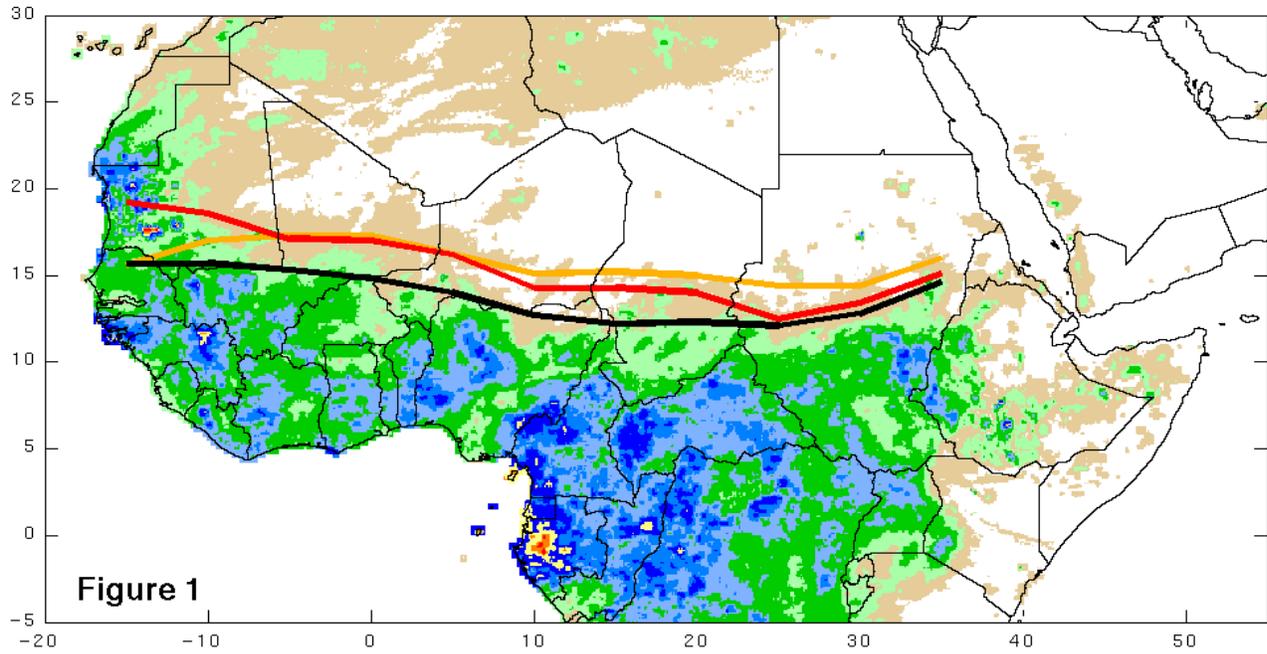
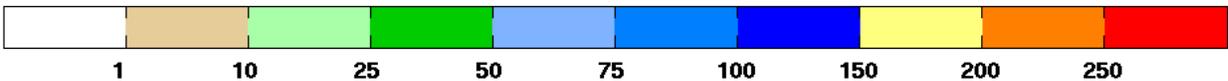


Figure 1

CPC RFE Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation (mm):



- Previous 10-Day Mean Position
- Normal 10-Day Mean Position
- Current 10-Day Mean position

Mean West Portion of ITF: Averaged 10°W to 10°E
As of Oct 2010 : Dekad 2

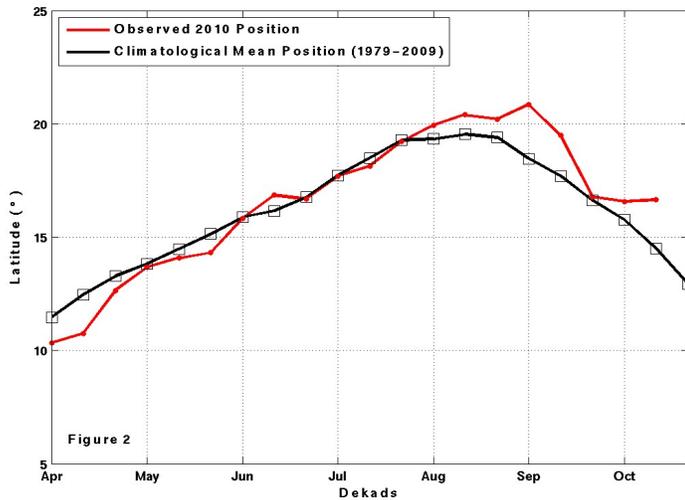


Figure 2

Mean East Portion of ITF: Averaged 20°E to 35°E
As of Oct 2010 : Dekad 2

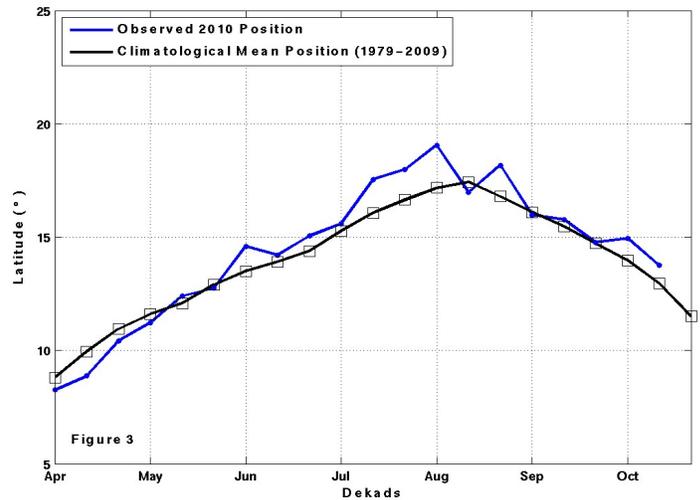


Figure 3

From October 11-20, 2010, the ITF maintained a significantly northward position across much of the Sahel, resulting in anomalously high moisture and ample rainfall throughout portions of extreme West Africa. The mean western portion of the ITF was approximated at 16.6N, and is positioned slightly over 2.0 degrees ahead of the normal climatological position (14.5N) for this time of the year. Compared to the previous dekade, the ITF reverted northward during the second dekade of October, and is at a position that is more characteristic of an August ITF pattern. This ITF anomaly in the west brought copious amounts of precipitation over parts of Mali, Senegal and Mauritania where drier conditions typically prevail during fall. The mean eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 13.8N, and also remains ahead of the normal climatological position. Contrast to the west, however, the mean eastern portion of the ITF continued its normal equatorward retreat during October. The above map (Figure 1) shows the current ITF position relative to the positions of climatology for the second dekade of October, and its previous position during the first dekade of October. Figures 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the latitudinal mean of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, and their progressions since April, 2010.